

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EMIN, MO

SUBJECT: U.S.-MOROCCAN COOPERATION IN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:
PROPOSED GOM SEMINAR ON PETROLEUM PROSPECTION

REF: RABAT 3431

1. DEPARTMENT CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL PROPOSAL TO
BCIU DIRECTOR JOHN HABBERTON, WHO VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE
SOUNDING OF PRIVATE U.S. OIL COMPANIES TO SEE IF THERE
WAS SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN SEMINAR.

2. AFTER TELEPHONE SURVEY CONDUCTED OVER PAST SEVERAL
WEEKS, HABBERTON REPORTED BACK TO US THAT INTEREST WAS
TEPID AMONG MAJOR U.S. OIL COMPANIES. OF DOZEN OR SO
MAJOR COMPANIES CONTACTED, MAJORITY SAID THEY WOULD SEND
REPRESENTATIVES IF SEMINAR HELD BUT DID NOT SHOW ANY GREAT
ENTHUSIASM. ONLY PHILLIPS AND UNION OIL SAID THEY HAD NO
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INTEREST.

3. HABBERTON WAS PLEASED TO REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD
ALSO CONTACTED WALLACE SEWARD OF CHARLES MARTIN, INC., WHO
HAD DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND OFFERED TO ROUND
UP A NUMBER OF SMALLER OIL COMPANIES WHO HE FELT WOULD
BE SIMILARLY INTERESTED IN SEMINAR. ON THIS BASIS,

HABBERTON THOUGHT MOROCCANS MIGHT WELL CONSIDER PROCEEDING.
IF THEY DO, HE WILL ENLIST SEWARD ON HEARING FURTHER
DETAILS OF MOROCCAN PLANS. CHRISTOPHER

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